IAS 93/73
11 May 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Representative to EXSUBCOM

SUBJECT   :   IAS Comments on the Basic Program

1.   This memorandum summarizes IAS' views regarding the Basic Reports program. It contains essentially those points that were discussed at our meeting on 3 May, and is being forwarded to you for discussion at future meetings of the Basic Program Review Group.

2.   IAS believes there are several fundamental problems with the Basic Reports program. These are centered around the subjects selected for inclusion in the program, the content of some of the reports, and the report distribution. If these problems were corrected the Basic Reports program would become more responsive to the needs of the intelligence community in a much more cost-effective manner. The problems we identify with each of these program aspects are as follows:

a.   Subject matter. Many of the installations included in the Basic Report program are only of marginal significance or of single departmental interest.

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The inclusion of these types of targets in the Basic Program makes it appear that the Program is struggling to perpetuate itself. If these facilities need to be reported, the work could more properly be done in departmental shops. Conversely, NPIC produces numerous reports (for which they are not charged) equally marginal outside the Basic Program, but is unable to complete important Basic work (for which they are charged) on a timely basis. There also appears to be little flexibility in revising target lists. The program seems to work on a first come, first served basis, with little regard to relative priorities.

b.   Report content. Some of the detailed data included in Basic Reports for certain types of installations seems to be of little or no use. Likewise, there are far too many graphics in most Basic Reports. Examples are reports on airfields which contain two

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photographs and a line drawing of the entire airfield, plus separate
photographs and descriptions of each functional component of the
airfield; reports on naval facilities which have a location map
plus a location photograph; port facility studies which contain
numerous line drawings and detailed descriptions of all mooring
facilities; and rail yard studies which contain line drawings of
all trackage. Here again the Basic Program has not shown the flexi-
bility to do its reporting in a pertinent and concise manner.

    c. Distribution. Because so many different types of installa-
tions and objects are included in the Basic Program, and the needs
of various consumers are different, a standard distribution list
for all Basic Reports doesn't make sense costwise. We know that IAS'
responsibilities in the Basic Program are of real interest only to
OER. This is reflected in the almost total absence of queries on
our Basic Reports from organizations other than OER.

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    d. Timeliness. In addition to the fundamental problems described
above, we think there is a need to examine the timeliness of reporting
(such as the requirement for regularly scheduled updates) and the
mechanisms available for registering disagreements on the accuracy
of reports. Updates should be required only when truly significant
changes have occurred.

3.   A good percentage of the time used at the 3 May meeting dealt with
the questionnaire to be used by the Basic Program Review Group. We re-
iterate that the questionnaire appears to be too general, and think the
questions need to be direct and pointed to get constructive and usable
responses.

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Special Assistant
Imagery Analysis Service

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